



2nd November 2020

Agenda Item: 4

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND SOCIAL WORK

PROVISION, ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS OF THE CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL AND PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE LOOKED AFTER 2019/20

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an overview of the work of the Young People Looked After (YPLA) Youth Work team, situated within the Youth Service. The YPLA team is responsible for:
 - the Children in Care Council (CiCC) structure which ensures that young people looked after are represented at all levels in the Nottinghamshire system of Youth Participation
 - encouraging and enabling young people, who are looked after, adopted or living in residential care to engage in positive activities provided by the YPLA team and to independently access mainstream provision
 - engaging with at least 250 children and young people in care
 - working in partnership with Children's Social Care.

Information

2. The YPLA team is responsible for the planning and delivery of a range of positive activities outside of the school day for looked after and adopted young people. This is to enable young people to come together to participate and have fun in events throughout the year as well as to have a voice about their life in care through the work of the CiCC. The CiCC structure includes a number of sub-groups, which provide a mechanism for a range of groups of looked after young people to be involved in Nottinghamshire's system of Youth Participation. Representatives from each sub-group then meet as the formal CiCC board (also known as No Labels). The opportunities on offer for young people to engage are designed to promote and support them to build their confidence and self-esteem as well as to develop new experiences.
3. Young people looked after are signposted to universal services across the County, as well as encouraged to participate in group work activities. This assists young people to develop

positive relationships with other young people and youth workers to help broaden their horizons, learning new skills, and experiences. Young people looked after have participated in a wide range of activities throughout 2019/20, which is detailed in **paragraph 7**.

4. Activities are designed to help support a holistic assessment of children and young people's needs and to help close the gap in educational attainment through joining in activities outside of the school environment. The positive activities young people participate in provide a platform for young people to share their views about life in care, which helps to promote placement stability, as young people are actively engaged, and have a trusted Youth Worker to talk to. A number of these young people will go on to be members of the sub-groups of the CiCC and attend No Labels meetings. This is where sub-group representatives come together with a range of senior officers and elected Members to design and shape services available to them.
5. The CiCC provides the Council with an opportunity to listen to what children and young people are saying, consequently these views are taken forward and acted upon. There is also an expectation that the membership of the CiCC will be encouraged to have an active role in the Young People Board. The strategic development of the CiCC has direct links to Nottinghamshire's Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2018-2021, and the vision of the Service Director for Youth, Families and Social Work.
6. The work of the CiCC has direct links to the Partnership Strategy for Looked After Children and Care Leavers, which sets out the ambition Nottinghamshire County Council has as corporate parents.
7. The CiCC sub-groups and No Labels have all met six times in 2019/20. To date young people have been actively involved in a number of events or participated in sharing their views and making decisions on a variety of strategic and business agenda items such as:
 - consultation with young people on the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2018-2021 review, and influencing the key priorities and action plans
 - consultation with young people on the Mind of My Own App within the development stage and as a live app for use by young people in care
 - engagement with young people to further develop the care leaver app and decide on young people friendly logos and images
 - continued consultation with young people on the IPC (integrated personal commissioning) LAC CAMHS (Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services) which is a pilot project that has been established to see how the IPC model can be used to support looked after children/care leavers with emotional wellbeing and mental health needs. The new project was identified through the Future in Mind report and our own Children and Young People transformation plan
 - consultation with young people to look at how health services are supporting the needs of young people and make recommendations for further development. This was achieved by members of the CiCC taking part in the mystery shopper project which

involved young people taking part in training and inspection of commissioned health services for young people across Nottinghamshire

- questions developed by young people have been used by panel members deciding on the suitability of foster carers at panel meetings – ensuring young people’s voices are at the heart of the decision making. Feedback from the panel was positive and gave an extra perspective to the process
 - working with the coordinator of the Virtual School on planning and delivering the Achievement Event on 24th June 2019, which is an annual event
 - young people were actively involved in developing the personal education plan for all children and young people in care, ensuring the wording was representative, diverse and young people friendly
 - the CiCC engaged in consultation and debate based on young people’s lived experiences to develop a strength-based and caring approach to language used by professionals with Nottinghamshire County Council
 - young people have had the opportunity to identify two themes from the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2018-2021, which they will focus on from April 2019. By 2021 young people will have focused on all six themes as part of their ongoing work through the CiCC. The themes for 2019/20 were a successful transition to adulthood and experiences good physical, emotional and mental health and wellbeing
 - young people developed and produced a film – young person led to explore their experiences and to challenge the stereotypes around foster care and young people having a voice in care
 - 16+ group redesigned the care leaver health information, alongside the looked after child nurses. The group re-designed the information pack that young people receive when they leave care. Young people recommended splitting the pack into relevant sections, so information was more accessible. Young people also wanted to rename the information pack ‘Leaving Care Health History/Record’; this was a joint consultation with Nottingham City.
8. Expression of Interest forms (EOI) were introduced by young people following a review of the process in relation to how young people are invited to participate in shaping the services available to them. The CiCC has received 8 EOIs, allowing young people to:
- take ownership of the agenda and their involvement in the design and delivery of services
 - establish the information required and the time needed to enable young people to actively participate
 - keep track of individual projects they are involved in.

Other Options Considered

9. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. The report seeks approval to further update the Committee on this work in 12 months.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

12. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That Committee agrees to receive a further update report on the work of the Young People Looked After Youth Work team in 12 months and that this be included in the work programme.

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Constitutional Comments (AK 01/10/20)

13. The report falls within the remit of Children and Young People's Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (SAS 02/10/20)

14. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2018-2021

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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